

DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY

March 2, 2022

Mr. Steven Horton
SHCCSI
PO Box 399
Walpole, NH 03608

RE: Docket No. GMCB-014-21con, North Country Hospital, Construction and Renovation Project Involving the In-Patient Department, Emergency Department, Lab Department, OT/PT/ST Department and Access and Canopies. Total Project Cost: \$27,898,176.

Dear Mr. Horton:

Thank you for your application regarding the above referenced renovation and construction project. We are in the process of reviewing the financial and architectural information you provided. At this time, please provide the following information:

General

1. Provide a more detailed overview of existing conditions, age of the plant in each of the areas to be renovated, when past renovations/construction were completed, and more information as to why the proposed changes in each area are needed. Also provide:
 - a. A table showing the current square footage and proposed square footage for each project component;
 - b. A table showing the current and proposed number of beds/rooms and clinical spaces by type for each project component, where applicable.
2. Provide a copy of the master facility plan referenced in the application.
3. Provide an explanation as to why the project was not included in past hospital budget submissions and address whether it will be included in the FY23 submission.
4. Provide a letter from Efficiency Vermont (EV) that outlines how the hospital will be working with EV on the energy efficiency for each component of the project.
5. Explain in more detail how the project will support equal access to appropriate mental health care that meets standards of quality, access, and affordability equivalent to other components of health care as part of an integrated wholistic system of care. (See number 10 on page 17 of your application.)



6. Explain the availability of public transportation service and frequency of service with stops at the hospital.
7. On page 9, it is noted that an attestation of compliance with the FGI Guidelines was included in the application but was not attached. Please provide a copy of the attestation.

Inpatient Department Component

8. CON Standard 1.6: Explain in detail how the hospital currently collects and monitors data relating to health care quality and outcomes related to the inpatient component and whether this will continue or change when the project is completed.
9. CON Standard 1.7: Explain how the hospital is currently consistent with evidence-based practices; how practitioners will be made aware of evidence-based guidelines; and how such guidelines will be incorporated into on-going decision making and whether it will continue or change when the project is completed.
10. Clarify the total number of proposed inpatient rooms and the number with negative pressure.

Emergency Department Component

11. CON Standard 1.6: Explain in detail how the hospital currently collects and monitors data relating to health care quality and outcomes related to the inpatient component and whether this will continue or change when the project is completed.
12. CON Standard 1.7: Explain how the hospital is currently consistent with evidence-based practices; how practitioners will be made aware of evidence-based guidelines; and how such guidelines will be incorporated into on-going decision making and whether it will continue or change when the project is completed.
13. Explain in more detail if and how the hospital has included the local Designated Agency and mental health advocacy community in the design of the area in the ED for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis.
14. Clarify which rooms in the emergency department will be pressurized or whether the entire department will be pressurized.
15. Explain where the ambulances are currently housed and their location following the project.
16. Explain in detail initiatives undertaken by the hospital during the past five years to reduce the number of ED visits such as educational programs, expansion of primary care, walk-in clinics, etc.
17. The application represents that the hospital serves 27,000 residents in Orleans County and North Essex County and that the ED currently serves approximately 17,200 patients annually. Provide more detail regarding the annual number of ED visits relative to the population of your service area.
18. CON Standard 4.3: Specifically address how the ED provides access to on-call emergency psychiatry consultations and specifically how the expansion will enhance current or emerging mental health and substance abuse needs.



19. CON Standard 4.5: Specifically identify services and protocols included in the ongoing operation of the ED relative to furthering the integration of mental health, substance use disorder, and other health care and provide examples.

OT/PT Department Component

20. CON Standard 1.6: Explain in detail how the hospital currently collects and monitors data relating to health care quality and outcomes related to the inpatient component and whether this will continue or change when the project is completed.
21. CON Standard 1.7: Explain how the hospital is currently consistent with evidence-based practices; how practitioners will be made aware of evidence-based guidelines; and how such guidelines will be incorporated into on-going decision making and whether it will continue or change when the project is completed.

Lab Department Component

22. Identify the number of labs processed annually in the existing lab and the number that will be accommodated in the new lab.

In responding, restate the question in bold font and respond in unbolded font. Send an electronic copy to me at donna.jerry@vermont.gov and one hard copy (three-hole punched) with a Verification Under Oath to my attention at the Green Mountain Care Board, 144 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05602.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 802-760-8162.

Sincerely,

s/ Donna Jerry
Senior Health Policy Analyst
Green Mountain Care Board

cc. Laura Beliveau
Staff Attorney

